Union and its members. Joint Commission meetings have recently been held with Italy and the European Union. A new Indo-EU, Co-operation Agreement on Partnership and Development has also come into force since August, 1994.

प्याज का निर्यात मूल्य

1783. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान और 1994-95 में अभी तक प्रति मास किस भाव पर प्याज का निर्यात किया गया ;

(ख) इन महीनों में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने प्याज के लिए कितना-कितना ऋण दिया ;

(ग) इन महीनों में प्याज का बाजार भाव क्या था; और

(घ) प्याज की जमाखोरी रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) प्याज के निर्यात पर इकाई मूल्य वसूली के ब्यौरे नीचे दिए गये हैं:

(रु०/क्विंटल)

माह	1993-94	1994-95
अप्रैल	521	413
मई	429	410
जून	463	462
जुलाई	431	495
अगस्त	428	553
सितंबर	516	714
अक्तूबर	713	779
नवंबर	840	770
दिसंबर	1129	
जनवरी	975	
फरवरी	582	
मार्च	466	

(ख) स्थिति भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से मालूम की जा रही है और उसे सभापटल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

(ग) वर्ष 1993 तथा 1994 के दौरान साप्ताहिक स्थानीय बाजार कीमतें नीचे दी गई हैं :-

(दर : रु०/क्विन्टल)

	नासिक में कीमत रेंज	
माह	1993	1994
जनवरी	50.315	180.1000
फरवरी	111.360	100.475
मार्च	70.370	51.325
अप्रैल	20.193	39.191
मई	40.203	31.171
जून	50.275	45.300
जुलाई	70.270	80.310
अगस्त	92.370	80.310
सितंबर	105.545	150.603
अक्टूबर	151.865	97.715
नवम्बर	201.1100	100.647
दिसंबर	151.931	

(घ) चूंकि प्याज एक नष्ट होने वाली मद है इसलिए आमतौर पर व्यापारियों द्वारा इसका संग्रह नहीं किया जाता है ।

Membership of NAFf A

1784. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(al whether it is a fact that India has reached the required level of development which entitles her to become a member of the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA);

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the benefits likely to accrue to India after joining NAFTA; and

(d) what has been the reaction to ihe move made by India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERIEE) : (a) The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a trilateral agreement between the United States, Canada & Maxico. Under this agreement the accession clause relating to joining of new members is as follows:

> "The NAFTA provides that other countries or groups of countries may be admitted into the Agreement if the NAFTA countries agree, and subjct to terms and conditions that they may require and to the completion of domestic approval procedures in each country."

(b) India has not made any proposal at present to join the NAFTA.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Proposal Regarding Joining Paris Convention

1785. SHRI DINESHBHAI TR1-VEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) when India propose to join the Paris convention;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the terminology "Pipeline Protection" in the context of TRIPS, if so, what is meant by the term "Pipeline Protection";

(c) whether the patent term is going to be changed; if so, whether the term is proposed to be 20 years from the date of filing, or 20 years from the date of grant;

(d) whether there is a proposal to protect biotechnology patents involving micro-organisms in India;

(e) whether new varities of plants, can be patented in the near future; and

(f) whether it is a fact that plant varieties patents will be protected by a body outside the jurisdiction of the present PATENT office? '

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No decision has been taken on this matter.

(b) Yes, Sir. Article 70 of the Agreement on TRIPS deals with pipeline protection. It requires Members to provide exclusive marketing rights for a period of 5 years to pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products in respect of which they do not make available product patent protection as on the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement. Exclusive marketing rights are to be provided subject to the conditions that such a product has obtained marketing approval in that Member or until a product patent is grantned or rejected in that Member, whichever period is shorter, provided that subsequent to the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, a patent application has been filed and a patent granted for that product in another Member and marketing approval obtained in such other Member.

(c) The TRIPS Agreement requires the term of protection to be at least 20 years. A transition period of 5 years is available to India for bringing its law into conformity with this provision.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(e) There is no proposal to provide for patents in respect of plant varieties.

(f) Does not arise.

Export of Aluminium Metal and Semis

1786. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the high international price of aluminium has boosted the export of indigenous aluninimum and semis;

(b) whether it is **also a** fact that the country is facing acute shortage of aluminium for meeting the indigenous demand ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a demand from various quarters for the ban on the export of aluminium and its products made out of indigenous metal so as to overcome the shortage ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking for imposing complete ban on the export of aluminiums and semis made out of indigenous production enabling the aluminium consuming units to keep their wheel moving?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The value of export of aluminium metal and semis during April—August, 1994 was Rs. 113 crores (Provisional). The exports during 1993-94 and 1992-93 were Rs. 255 crores and Rs. 383 crores respectively.

(b) Aluminium production in the country is not sufficient to meet the demand. The gap in the country's requirement is met through imports.

(c) and (d) Import of aluminium metal is freely allowed. Besides, Customs duty on aluminium has also been reduced to facilitate imports.

निर्यातों में वृद्धि करने के लिए लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र को सुविधाएं दिया जाना

1787. **श्री इकबाल सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार देश के निर्यातों में वृद्धि करने के लिए लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र को और सुविधाएं देने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र द्वारा निर्यातों में वृद्धि करने के मामले में दिए गए योगदान की प्रतिशतता का कोई मूल्यांकन किया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र को संरक्षण देने और उसकी दशा में सुधार करने के लिए क्या कारगर कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी): (क), (ख) और (ङ) संशोधित निर्यात आयात नीति 1992-97 में लघु उद्योग क्षेत्रसे निर्यात किए जाने पर विशेष बल दिया गया है । निर्यात घराने/व्यापार घराने/चोटी के व्यापार घराने/सर्वोच्च चोटी के व्यापार घरानों का दर्जा देने के लिए लघु उद्योग, हथकरघा